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BRIEF MENTION.

R. G. K.: *Historical Grammar of the Ancient Persian Language*, by EDWIN LEE JOHNSON, Ph. D. New York, *American Book Co.*, 1917. Pp. xiv + 251. Price \$2. This convenient handbook is Vol. VIII of the Vanderbilt Oriental Series, edited by Tolman and Stevenson, and assuredly fills an empty space in the apparatus of the Iranian scholar, though like most such handbooks it is substantially only a methodical summary and arrangement of work already done and scattered in the various periodicals. It contains brief accounts of the decipherment of the inscriptions, of their location and publication, of ancient Persian writing and pronunciation, and of the Indo-European languages; then follows an historical account of the development of the Indo-European sounds and paradigms into the Ancient Persian, and a brief treatment of the syntax of Ancient Persian, with one or two excursions on other features.

When we compare JOHNSON's volume with Meillet's *Grammaire du vieux perse* (1915), we observe that JOHNSON starts from the Indo-European sound or form, and traces down to Ancient Persian, while Meillet makes the Ancient Persian his point of departure. For etymological comparisons and studies, one finds Johnson's work the more usable; but Meillet enters into a mass of detail which the more careful worker may not disregard, and which he will not find in JOHNSON's volume. This is astonishing in view of the fact that the two books are of substantially the same bulk; but the Vanderbilt scholar uses his space in giving a fairly complete abstract of Indo-European and of Aryan and Iranian philology, on which to base his Ancient Persian interpretations. This would obviously be a proper method, if the Ancient Persian were a language with an abundant vocabulary and entire paradigms exemplified in the remains. But it is very meager in both respects, and JOHNSON's procedure is very extravagant of space, often hiding the Ancient Persian needle in an Indo-European or Aryan haystack. For instance, after over five pages on sandhi and vowel contraction, in which not a single Ancient Persian example is found, the contraction of vowels in Ancient Persian is disposed of in half a page, including six Persian examples. Two full pages are used on the pronoun of the second person, though only three Ancient Persian forms are found; the irrelevant matter fills exactly one page of the two. Twelve pages on the Indo-European personal endings of verbs, with their develop-

ment into Indo-Iranian, are followed by four and a half pages on the personal endings of Ancient Persian; why devote three pages of the twelve to dual endings, when Ancient Persian contains not a single specimen of a verb in the dual number? It is a pity to load up a really good and convenient handbook with so much useless lumber: for even the author hardly expects it to be used as a general reference work on Indo-European processes and forms.

There are naturally points of detail where the reviewer would differ, but he refrains from devoting to such use the space at his disposal. The volume is, despite the superfluous material, a welcome complement to the convenient volumes already issued on Ancient Persian in the same series.

R. G. K.: *Graeco-Persian Names*, by ALVIN H. M. STONECIPHER. (New York, *American Book Co.*, 1918. Price \$1. The Vanderbilt Oriental Series, vol. ix), gives still further testimony to the scholarly productivity which one enthusiastic teacher may evoke in a little-frequented field of knowledge. This volume should be in the library of every classical scholar who has to do with Persian personal names appearing in Greek texts. Justi's *Iranische Eigennamen* is not very usable, both from its arrangement and from its date, and Professor Stonecipher's volume is a convenient successor, with the material carefully arranged. The classical writings for Persian names are listed in comparison with the known or presumable Persian forms; the graphic representations in Greek of the several Persian sounds are tabulated; the etymological elements of the Persian names, with their meanings, are catalogued, with lists of the names into which they enter. Thus almost any linguistic information that may be desired with regard to the names is readily available in such form as to be most useful to teachers of the classics as well as to professed etymologists and to comparative philologists.

C. W. P.: In his *Latin Diminution of Adjectives*, reprinted from *Classical Philology* (XI, 426f., XII, 49f.), Professor Walter Petersen has made a collection and classification of Latin diminutive adjectives for the special purpose of investigating those that denote an approximation to the quality of the primitive adjective, a meaning usually translated in English by the suffix *-ish* or by placing the word 'somewhat' or 'rather' before the adjective. These so-called diminutives of quality

differ in meaning from the great mass of diminutive adjectives in Latin, i. e., those which by enallage transfer to the nouns they modify the notions of small size, endearment, or contempt, implied in their diminutive endings. To this latter class belong many diminutive adjectives which the lexicons erroneously translate by means of 'somewhat'. The idea of approximation to the primitive adjectives is found in three classes of adjectives: (1) diminutives of adjectives denoting a large size or quantity, which starting from the diminutive notion of smallness developed a meaning exactly like that of dim. of quality, e. g., *grandiculus* 'rather large', *longulus* 'rather long'; (2) dim. of adjectives signifying color and of one denoting taste, *acidulus*; and (3) comparative adjectives in *-(i)usculus* (=comp. *-ius* + dim. *-culus*). Whence arose this notion of approximation to the primitive adjective? So far as the dim. ending *-(u)lus* is concerned, it must have developed on Latin soil, for the Indo-European suffix *-lo-* did not have it. But I. E. *-ko-* did have this force, and, according to Brugmann, *-ko-* is the first part of the Latin suffix *-culus*. Hence in adjectives of the third class, all of which end in *-culus*, it was inherited from I. E. *-ko-*. Those of the first class, as explained above, got this meaning from the notion of small size. In regard to the second class which is composed of color adjectives and *acidulus*, all ending in *-lus* with one possible exception, the author holds that either some link must be found to connect these with adjectives of large size, or else the two Latin suffixes *-(u)lus* and *-culus* had come to have the same meaning in prehistoric times, the notion of approximation to the primitive adj. thus passing over from *-culus* to *-(u)lus*; and he then decides in favor of the latter alternative.

K. F. S.: Index verborum quae in Senecae fabulis necnon in Octavia praetexta reperiuntur. A Guilielmo Abbott Oldfather, Arthuro Stanley Pease, Howardo Vernon Canter confectus. Pars prior. Apud Universitatem Illinoiensem MDCCCXVIII. Pp. 103. \$2.00. (University of Illinois Studies in Language and Literature. Vol. IV, May, 1918, No. 1.) As a conscientious reviewer I felt that I ought to test the correctness of this index by looking up all the examples under a few words selected at random. I found no false references. But even if I had done so, I am not sure that I should have mentioned them here. Men who are at once competent and willing to make such an index as this of any great classical author deserve all the encouragement and support that the world of scholarship can give them. Hitherto

the only index verborum of Seneca's plays was in the Lemaire edition. It was incomplete according to modern standards, it was also out of print and not generally available. This new index is well printed, correct and complete. As soon as it is finished we shall have entire command of a series of dramas important not only in themselves but also because they are practically all that is left of what was once a large and important department of Roman poetry.